

AA-795
BALTIMORE GROUP BUILDING
U.S. Coast Guard Yard
CURTIS BAY
Public (Restricted)

1937-1942

Building No. 70, the Baltimore Group Building at the U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay, is a former ordnance and armory building converted to Coast Guard Reserve offices after World War II. It is a two-story concrete and steel structure veneered in brick, and is one of a group of 4 structures erected 1937-1942 under WPA work programs aimed at modernizing the Yard during the pre-World War II period. Building No. 70 differs from the other buildings in the group in that it is the only building on the Yard which reflects Art Deco design influences in some of its architectural details: the central tower of the front facade flanked by lower, step-like side sections; a pyramidal sheet metal roof; and decorative stone panels on the building facades commemorating the ordnance materials produced within its walls. The conversion of Building No. 70 from active military uses to Reserve activities reflects the effects upon Yard structures of the different demands of war and peacetime military needs.

7 DESCRIPTION

AA-795

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A group of five administrative and personnel support buildings were built on the Yard between 1935-1942 as part of a modernization effort prior to World War II. Four of the buildings are steel and concrete constructions with brick veneer executed in traditional styles favored during those years for government buildings. The fifth and earliest of the group is a small frame cottage used as officers' residence until its conversion to educational uses. These buildings are:

| Yard Building No. | Survey No. |
|-------------------|------------|
| 70 | AA- 795 |
| 72 | AA- 796 |
| 1 | AA- 797 |
| 33 | AA- 798 |
| 14 | AA- 799 |

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AA-795

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Building No. 70, Baltimore Group Building, is one of a group of concrete and steel, brick veneered buildings erected on the yard during the period 1937-1942 under WPA work programs aimed at modernizing the Yard during the pre-World War II period. Building No. 70 differs from other buildings in the group in that it reflects Art Deco design influences in its architectural details: the central tower of the front facade flanked by lower side sections, pyramidal sheet metal roof, and decorative stone panels on the building facades commemorating the ordnance materials produced within its walls. The conversion of Building No. 70 from active to Reserve military activities reflects the effects upon Yard structures of the different demands of war and peacetime military needs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-795

See attached continuation sheet.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

August 1981

ORGANIZATION

The Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle/Shaw House

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Md 21401

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

No. 7 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Erected in 1937, Building No. 70, the Baltimore Group Building, originally served as armory and ordnance building. It now functions as a Coast Guard Reserve training facility. Building No. 70 is a two story, flat-roofed structure of steel and concrete construction with brick veneer executed in common bond. The structure, which rests on a full cement basement, measures 60 x 160 feet. The basement contains classrooms and storage areas along the north wall and a weapons firing range along the south wall. The first floor is subdivided into office space, while the second floor contains dormitories and recreation areas.

No. 70 faces east, and is 7 bays wide on its front facade, arranged with a wide 3-bay center block flanked by 2-bay sections on either side. Throughout the building, original large window openings have been reduced with brick infill to accommodate modern windows with either two or three horizontally sliding sashes. On the east facade, two-sash windows of this type appear in all four outer bays at both first and second floors. Six cement capped buttresses have bay divisions and delineate the ends of the building. Buttresses between windows are slightly narrower and shorter than those separating major sections and at the ends, or corners, of the facade. A line of cement molding crosses the side sections above the second floor windows. The flat roof lines are capped with cement molding. A cement cornerstone in the southeast corner commemorates the year of construction, "1937".

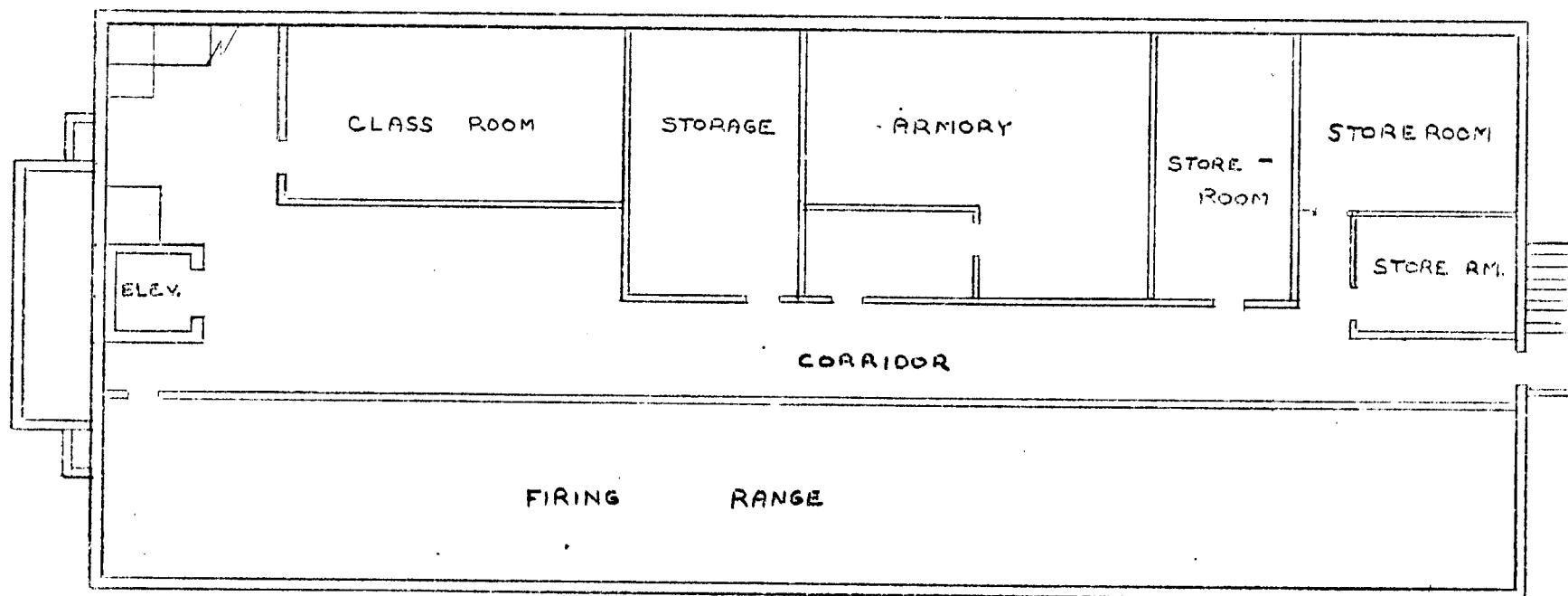
The center section of the east facade is slightly recessed (approximately 3 inches) from the main wall plane. The bays flanking the central entrance contain doorways centered inside wide buttresses reaching from the concrete loading dock in front of the doorway to the roof of the third floor. A cement roof overhang protects the loading dock at the first floor level. The centered entryway consists of wide double doors opening onto the loading dock. At second floor level, one original 16-light (4 across, 4 down) industrial window remains, and rests on a cement sill. A line of cement molding crosses above the window and is surmounted by a stone panel inscribed with a flaming ball, the military symbol for ordnance. Above this stone panel crosses another cement molding. In the third floor tower section is a 24-light (4 across, 6 down) industrial window with cement sill. The north and south sides of the tower contain two each of the same type window, and buttresses mark the ends of these facades. A pyramidal sheet metal roof topped by radar equipment crowns the tower.

The south facade of No. 70 is 10 bays long with modern horizontal replacement sash set into former large window spaces, now reduced with brick infill. A double loading door over a concrete lip occupies the third bay from the southeast corner at first floor. An entrance to Reserve offices is located in the third bay from the southwest corner. A sign over the modern safety glass doorway reads "Baltimore Group". Former windows in the three center bays at first floor have been bricked in. Eleven cement capped buttresses punctuate the bays and bands of cement molding above second floor level and at the roofline continue around the south facade in the same manner as on the front facade.

No. 7 DESCRIPTION (continued)

The north facade is identical to the south facade except for the appearance of replacement windows in all bays. There are also no entrances on this facade.

The south facade is 7 bays wide, with replacement windows in each bay as noted on the other facades, except in the central bay at second floor level, which is occupied by a fire exit and steel staircase. Cement capped buttresses separate the bays and mark the ends of the facade. Cement moldings continue around this facade as on other sides of the building.

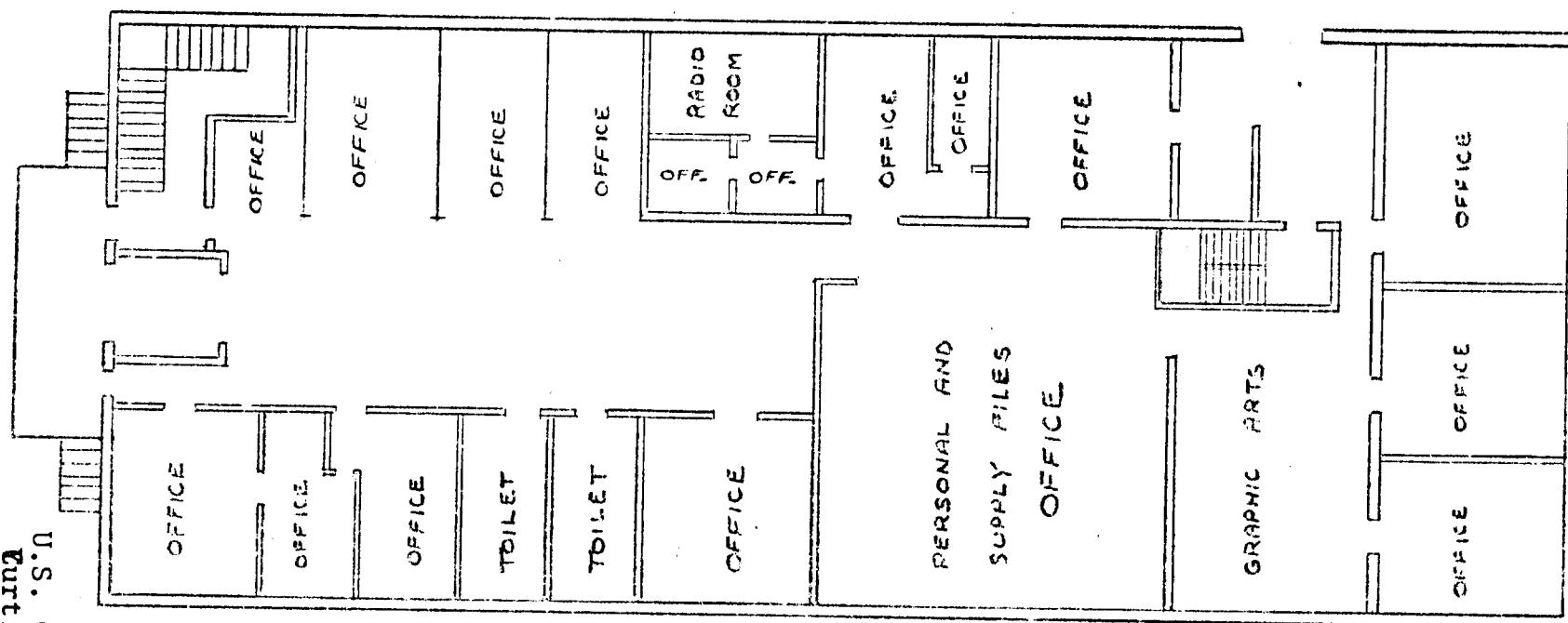
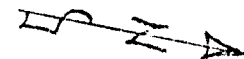


BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

| | | |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| FIRING RANGE | 3,240 | |
| CLASS ROOM | 780 | |
| STORAGE | 600 | |
| ARMORY | 1,200 | |
| STORE ROOM | 1,160 | |
| MISC | 2,841 | |
| TOTAL | 9,600 | SQ. FT. |

AA-795
 U.S. Coast Guard Yard
 Curtis Bay - Building No. 70
 Basement Floor Plan

BUILDING NO. 70
 RESERVE TRAINING
 APRIL 1974 SCALE 1"=20'
 DRAWN TR SHEET 1 OF 3
 CD 5 74



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|
| OFFICE | 6,000 | |
| TOILET | 400 | |
| RADIO ROOM | 240 | |
| GRAPHIC ARTS | 665 | |
| MISC | 1,295 | |
| TOTAL | 9,600 | SQ FT |

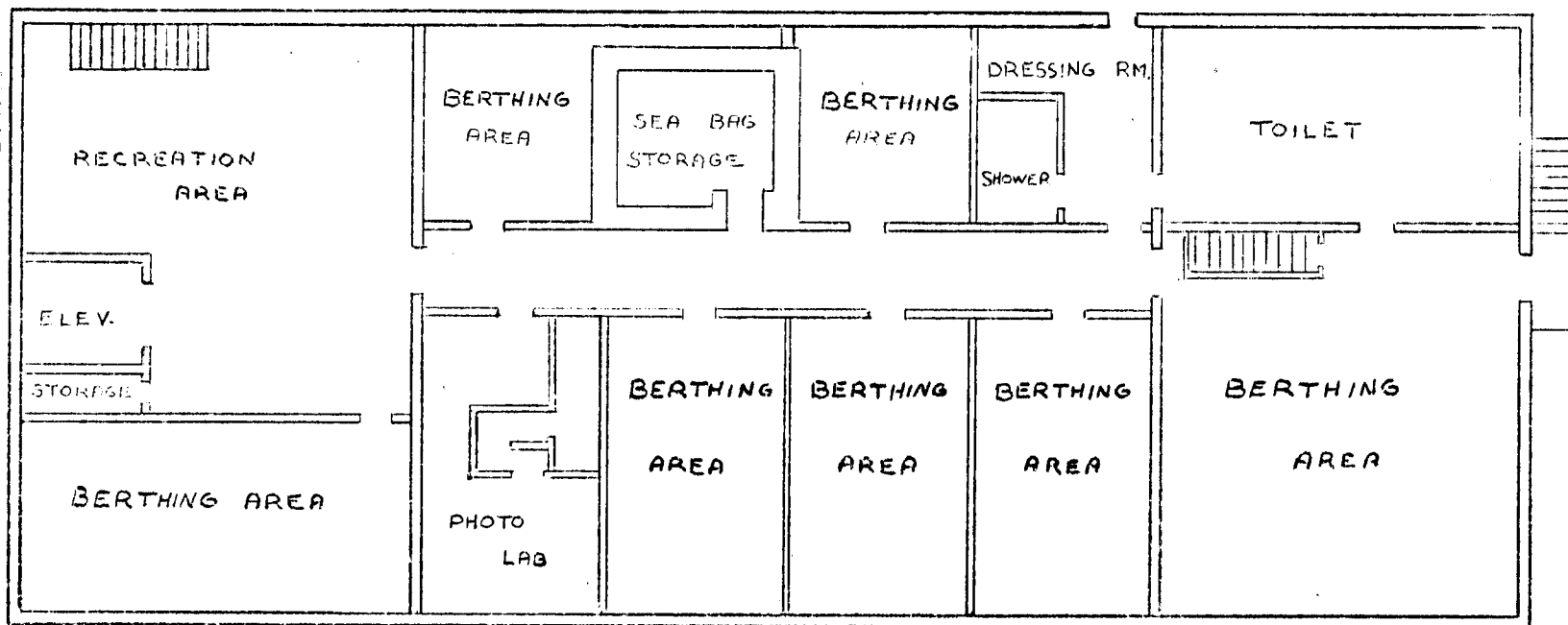
U.S. Coast Guard Yard AA-795
 Turtis Bay - Bldg No. 70
 First Floor Plan
 Original on file in Yard
 Graphics/Repro Office

AA-795

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| BUILDING NO. 70 | |
| RESERVE | TRAINING |
| APRIL 1974 | SCALE 1"=20' |
| DRAWN TR | SHEET 2 OF 3 |

CD 5-74

U.S. Coast Guard Yard AA-795
 Curtis Bay - Bldg No. 70
 Second Floor Plan
 From original on file in
 Yard Graphics/Repro Office



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| BERTHING | 5,000 |
| RECREATION | 1,360 |
| STORAGE | 310 |
| TOILET (DRESSING & SHOWER) | 1200 |
| PHOTO LAB | 589 |
| MISC. | 1,400 |
| TOTAL | 9,600 SQ FT |

BUILDING NO. 70

RESERVE TRAINING

APRIL 1974 SCALE: 1"=20'

DRAWN TR SHEET 3 OF 3

CD 5-74

U.S. Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay
Current Map of the Yard Bldg No. 70
AA-795



AA-745

ORDNANCE BUILDING

ANNE ARUNDEL, MD

SHERRI MARSH

APRIL 1996

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

~~55 OF 75~~

1 of 1



U.S. Coast Guard Yard Curtis AA-795

Bay Building NO. 70

Susanne Moore

July 1981

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Md

Southeast corner

1/2



U.S. Coast Guard Yard AA- 795
Curtis Bay - Building No. 70
Anne Arundel Counlty, Md
Susanne Moore
July 1981
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD
Northwest corner
2/2